

HOUSE RESOLUTION 4

By Dennis

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the members of the Alpha Kappa Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville on the occasion of the chapter's sixtieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to honor and specially commend those distinguished organizations whose stated goals advance the most noble precepts of human endeavors and whose history of service in pursuit of those goals is an outstanding example to the citizens of this great State; and

WHEREAS, fraternities and sororities have played a significant role in American college life since 1776 and have been major contributors to the cultural, social, and civic lives of their communities; and

WHEREAS, an extraordinary example of the Greek system at work, the Alpha Kappa Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho was chartered on January 27, 1951, having initiated over 1,100 men into its order, and since its inception, each member has fixed his eyes on the Alpha Kappa vision: to be the premier fraternity, building values, skills, and relationships for lifelong personal and professional success in the food, fiber, and life sciences industry; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Gamma Rho became a national fraternity in 1904 when a group of honorable young men came together to form an organization that would truly reflect their deeply-held belief in the time-honored values of integrity, hard work, and respect for one's neighbors; throughout the past century, it has grown to become a renowned institution in the agricultural community with seventy-four chapters on college and university campuses across throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Brothers of Alpha Gamma Rho participate in a broad range of activities on both the Main Campus and the Ag Campus, including Student Government Association,

Inter-fraternity Council, All-Campus Events, All-Sing, UT Pride of the Southland Band, Ag Judging Teams, Alpha Zeta Honorary Fraternity, CASNR Student Council, and Ag Ambassadors, and the Chapter has received special recognition from the national fraternity for having the finest chapter activities in the nation; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, the men of Alpha Gamma Rho have secured a plethora of honors, including winning numerous scholarship trophies and plaques, winning UT's Homecoming Competition for five straight years 2005-2009, placing in UT's annual singing competition All Sing, becoming the first UT fraternity on Fraternity Row to pay off their mortgage, and, since 1978, serving as the handlers of UT's Blue Tick Coonhound Mascot, Smokey; and

WHEREAS, for more than half a century, the industrious and determined young men of the Alpha Kappa Chapter have achieved tremendous success in nearly every field of study and professional endeavor; nine brothers have been selected as UT Torchbearers, the highest honor that the University of Tennessee can award to its undergraduate students; four have been selected as recipients of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Distinguished Alumnus Award; seven have been named Commissioners of Agriculture; and one brother, Buford Ellington, became the 42nd Governor of the great State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the high ideals and standards set forth by its founders, the Alpha Kappa Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho has continued to flourish for sixty years, providing many exciting opportunities for the development of social and leadership skills in an atmosphere of brotherhood, camaraderie, and mutual respect; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly should honor these fine gentlemen, who have made countless contributions to the cultural, social, and civic life of their communities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that on the occasion of this estimable fraternity's sixtieth anniversary we hereby honor and commend the members of the Alpha Kappa Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville,

salute their commitment to excellence in all their endeavors, and wish them continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.